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The Martian



The Martian is a survival story that pits man against the elements of outer and inner space. Matt Damon is an astronaut stuck on the red planet alone and with only his wits and some leftover parts from prior landings to help him deal with a very basic existential question, "Am I determined to live?" Damon is so effective in this part that you have to remind yourself that this isn't a true story. He does what he needs to do and using his special training in botany, makes the most out of what he has. What he

finds and what he achieves is nothing short of remarkable. Say what you want about the "nerds" and the "geeks", they will survive long after the rest of us have perished.

The Martian is also about friendship and being part of the team. In a world where life seems to have lost its value at least in some areas, it is nice to be reminded that one person is worth saving no matter what the cost. The value of human life is what makes some people run into burning buildings at their own peril. The devaluation of human life is what makes some people set fire to the building. The belief that each of us is worth saving is at the heart of *The Martian*. The setting of Mars is an excellent metaphor for life. When we are set against life threatening events we have to decide for ourselves whether or not to keep going and to fight to stay alive with no guarantee that we will make it out alive. It is a risk to take on what life throws at us bravely and with determination.

The Martian also reminds us that we are not alone in the universe and that even when we are far away from those we love and who love us, we can manage. That is a comforting thought and one that everyone needs to learn. Sometimes life is like being stuck on Mars. We just have to figure things out on our own. I really liked this movie and I know it will be nominated for more than a few awards come Oscar time. If you are looking for a good date movie, this is it. I give *The Martian* 5 golden tickets.

